



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 13, 2007

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MEXICAN CITIZEN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS FOR POSSESSION OF 1.5 TONS OF MARIJUANA

TUCSON – Jorge Antonio Burruel-Bojorquez, 33, of Caborca, Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced here Monday to 120 months imprisonment, by Chief U.S. District Judge John M. Roll. Burruel-Bojorquez, a.k.a. Jorge Ramiro Miranda-Salazar, had pleaded guilty to Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute and Possession with Intent to Distribute 1,487 kilograms (3,272 pounds) of marijuana on May 17, 2006.

On June 15, 2005, the defendant was arrested following surveillance of a suspected narcotics stash house on the Old Nogales Highway in Tucson. Agents saw the defendant leave the house while driving a van which was heavily-laden. The defendant then traveled in tandem with another vehicle. Both vehicles appeared to be conducting counter-surveillance maneuvers in an effort to detect law enforcement surveillance. Agents eventually stopped the defendant near the Intersection of Oracle Road and River Rd. in Tucson. Upon approaching the van, they noted a strong odor of raw marijuana coming from the vehicle. A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed that it was stacked from floor to ceiling with 188 bales of marijuana weighing over one-and-a-half tons.

Burruel-Bojorquez's incarceration will be followed by a five year term of supervised release. As a special condition of his supervised release, the defendant was further ordered not to illegally re-enter the United States if he is deported upon his release from imprisonment.

The investigation in this case was conducted by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The prosecution was handled by Bradley W. Giles, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR-05-1375-TUC-JMR
RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-042(Burruel-Bojoquez)

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